THE PRINCIPALL ACTS OF THE GENERALL ASSEMBLY,

CONVEENED

At EDINBURGH the second day of *August* 1643.

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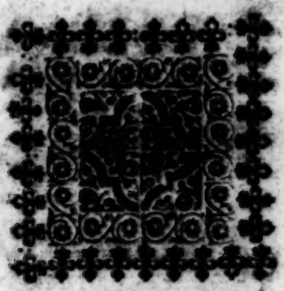

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Printed by EVAN TYLER, *Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majestie.*

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THE GENERALL ASSEMBLY,

At EDINBURGH, 1643.

mr Alexander Henderson moderator.

Sess. I. *August* 2. 1643.

The KINGS LETTER to the Generall Assembly,

Presented by his Majesties Commissioner Sir Thomas Hope *of Craighall Knight, His Majesties Advocate.*

CHARLES R.

TRustie and welbeloved, We greet you well. The time now approaching for the holding of the General Assembly of Our Kirk of Scotland, and We having appointed Sir *Thomas Hope* Our Advocate to be Our Commissioner there; We thought good to present him there with these Our Letters, and to take this occasion to minde you of the duty which you owe to Us your Soveraigne, and to the peace of that Our Native Kingdome. How far We have lately extended Our grace and favour towards satisfaction of your humble desires, there is not any amongst you but may well remember: And therefore in this conjuncture of Our affairs, it is but reasonable that We expect from you such moderation in the dutifull proceedings of this Assembly, as may concurre with Our Princely inclinations and desires, to preserve that Kirk and that Our Kingdome in peace; having wel observed

that alterations in points of Religion, are often the inlets to civill dissentions, and the hazard, if not overthrow of both Kirk and Kingdomes. Therefore of Our great affection and speciall tendernesse to your peace (who of all Our Dominions are yet happie therein to the envy of others) We conjure and require you in the fear of God, and obedience of Us his Vicegerent, that your endeavours and consultations tend onely to preserve peace and quietnesse among you. And so We bid you farewell. Given at Our Court at Oxford the 22. day of July, 1643.

To our right trusty and welbeloved Counsellour, Sir Thomas Hope *Knight, Our Advocate generall, and Our Commissioner at the generall Assembly of the Kirk in Our Kingdome of Scotland, and to the rest of the said Assembly now conveened.*

Sess. II. *August 3.* 1643.

Overtures anent Bills, References, and Appeales.

I. THat all Bills whatsoever of particular concernment, whereunto all parties having interest are not cited, should be rejected.

II. That all Bills be first presented to the inferiour Judicatories of the Kirk, who may competently consider of them, and from them be orderly and *gradatim* brought to the Assembly, according to the order prescribed for Appellations in the Assembly of Edinburgh, 1639. in the 24. Sess. August 30.

III. That the said Act of Assembly 1639. anent Appellations, be also extended to References.

IV. In Appellations and References of particular concernment, if all parties having interest, have been present in the inferiour Judicatorie when the Appeal and Reference was made, then there is no necessitie of citation. But in case of their absence, citation of parties is so necessar, that if it be wanting, Appellations and References should not be received.

V. That conform to former Acts of Assemblies, Appellations *post sententiam* be made within ten dayes after the sentence, and otherwise not to be respected. *See Assembly 48. Sess. 30.*

The Assembly ordaines their Overtures to be given to the severall Committees for their direction.

Sess. III.

Sess. III. *August* 4. 1643.

Act for election of Professours to be Commissioners to Assemblies by Presbyteries.

THe Assembly thinks, if Professours of Divinitie in Universities be Ministers, that they may be chosen Commissioners to the Generall Assembly, either by the Presbyterie as Ministers, or by the Universitie as Professours of Divinitie.

Sess. IV. *August* 5. 1643.

The Petition of the distressed Professours in Ireland for Ministers.

To the reverend and honourable Moderatour and remanent Members of the Generall Assembly of Scotland, conveened at Edinburgh, Aug. 1643.

The humble Petition of the distressed Christians in the North of Ireland.

Humbly sheweth,

THat whereas you were pleased the last year to take notice of our Petition, and conceived so favourable an act in our behalf, from our hearts we blesse the Lord God of our fathers, who put such a thing as this in your heart, to begin in any sort to beautifie the house of the Lord amongst us: doubtlesse you have brought upon your selves the blessing of them who consider the poor; the Lord will certainly deliver you in the time of trouble. We trust no distance of place, no length of time, no pressure of affliction, yea, nor smiling of prosperity, shall delete out of our thankfull memories the humble acknowledgement of your so motherly care, in drawing out your breasts, yea, your souls to satisfie the hungrie: although we have been beaten with the sword, bitten with famine, our own wickednes correcting us, our back-slidings reproving us, yet we have not to farre forgotten the Lords ancient love, but that our hearts were brought to a little reviving in the midst of our bondage, by the Ministery of these, who at your direction made a short visit amongst us. We know you did not conceive it expedient at that time, to loose any for ful settling here, till the waters of the bloudy inundation were somewhat abated, and probability might be of some

ſome comfortable abode, which we through the Lords reveng-ging hand, purſuing our enemies, and the vigilancie of your victo-rious Army; is in a great meaſure attained unto. Whatſoever might have detained ſome of theſe whom ye directed to us; whoſe ſtay made our expectation prove abortive, we ſhall aſcribe it to our own abuſe of ſuch treaſure, & want of ſpirituall hunger; occaſioned juſtly through the want of food; And yet that ſame diſ-appoint-ment, together with your faithfull promiſe of inlarging your in-debted bountie, which is put upon record in all our hearts; hath made us conceive the ſeed of a lively expectation; that you will now no more put your bountie, and the means of our life, into the hazard of ſuch fruſtrations, but will once for all, beſtow an ample and enduring bleſsing. And of this we are ſo much the more con-fident, becauſe our former ſuit was not denyed, but delayed: only we fear, if a new delay be procured, till all things be fully ſettled, that the obſerving of winde and clouds, ſhall hinder both ſowing and reaping. And in the mean time, the Prelates and their Facti-on may ſtep in and inveſt themſelves of their old tyrannie over our conſciences, who if they once ſhall ſee us poſſeſſed of our own Inheritance, thoſe *Canaanites* dare not offer to thruſt us out. By all appearance, if the Jeſuites had any hope to finde welcome a-mongſt us, they had provided us fully ere now with their poyſon-ed plants. Our hearts abhorre the checking or ſuſpecting of your proceedings, yet it is lawfull to learn ſometime from our enemie: But in this you have begun before, not only to do, but alſo to be forward a year ago, and thereby have ingaged your ſelves to per-fect your own beginnings, and bring us out of our orphan condi-tion. We are fallen in your lap, this ruine muſt be under your hand; you cannot pretend want of bread or cloathing, you muſt be healers: We have choſen you Curators to your little young ſiſter that wants breaſts; there is none in earth to take her out of your hand, for we will not, nor cannot hide it from your Honours and Wiſedomes, that we want bread, and muſt not only, as before, have a bit for our preſent need, but alſo ſeed to ſow the Land.

It is therefore our humble and earneſt deſire, that you would yet again look on our former Petition, and your own obligatorie Act, and at leaſt declare your conſent, that a competent number of our own Miniſters may be looſed to ſettle here, and break bread to the children that lye fainting at the head of all ſtreets; which although it may be accounted but a reſtoring of what we loſt, and you have found, yet we ſhall eſteem it as the moſt preci-ous gift that earth can affoord. When they are ſo looſed, if they finde not all things concurring to clear Gods calling, it will be in their hand to forbear, and you have teſtified your bountie. But oh for the Lords ſake, do not kill our dying ſouls, by denying theſe our neceſſar deſires. There are about twelve or fourteen waſte congregations on this neareſt coaſt, let us have at leaſt a competent number that may erect Chriſts throne of diſcipline, and may help

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to bring in others, and then shall we sing, that the people who were left of the sword, have found grace in the wilderneſſe. We have sent theſe our brethren, Sir *Robert Adair* of Kinhilt Knight, and *William Mackenna* of Belfast merchant, to attend an answer from you, who have attained that happineſſe to be lenders and not borrowers, and to present the heartie longing affections of

Your most obliged and more expecting brethren and seruants.

Subscribed by very many hands.

Sess. VI. *August* 8. 1643.

Acts for subscribing the Covenant.

THe Generall Assembly considering the good and pious advice of the Commissioners of the last Assembly, upon the 22. of September 1642. *post meridiem*, recommending to Presbyteries, to have Copies of the Covenant to be subscribed by every Minister at his admission; doth therefore ratifie and approve the same. And further ordaines, that the Covenant be reprinted, with this Ordinance prefixed thereto, and that every Synod, Presbyterie, and Paroch, have one of them bound in *quarto*, with some blank paper, whereupon every person may be obliged to subscribe: And that the Covenants of the Synod and Presbyterie be keeped by their Moderatours *respective*; of Universities by their Principalls, of Parochs by their Ministers, with all carefulneſſe. And that particular acccount of obedience to this Act, be required hereafter in all visitations of Paroches, Universities, and Presbyteries, and in all trialls of Presbyteries and Synod books.

THe Generall Assembly considering that the Act of the Assembly at Edinburgh 1639. August 30. injoyning all persons to subscribe the Covenant, under all Ecclesiasticall censure, hath not been obeyed: Therefore ordaines all Ministers to make intimation of the said Act in their Kirks, and thereafter to proceed with the censures of the Kirk against such as shall refuse to subscribe the Covenant. And that exact account be taken of every Ministers diligence hereintill by their Presbyteries and Synods, as they will answer to the Generall Assembly.

Sess. VII. *August* 9. 1643.

Act for searching books tending to Separation.

THe Generall Assembly considering the recommendation of the Commissioners of the late Assembly at S. Andrews upon the 12. of May last, to every Minister within their severall bounds, especially to Ministers upon the coasts, or where there is Harbourie and Ports, to try and search for all books tending to Separation: And finding the same most necessar, do therefore ordain that recommendation to have the strength of an ordinary Act of Assembly: And that every Minister be carefull to try and search if any such books be brought to this Countrey from beyond seas, and if any shall be found, to present the samine to Presbyteries, that some course may be taken to hinder the dispersing thereof: And earnestly recommend to the Civill Magistrates, to concurre with their authoritie in all things, for effectuall execution hereof.

Approbation of the proceedings of the Commissioners of the last Assembly.

THe Generall Assembly having heard the report of the Committee appointed to consider the proceedings of the Commissioners of the late Assembly at S. Andrews; after mature deliberation, and serious consideration thereof, findes the whole Acts, Conclusions and Proceedings of the saids Commissioners, contained in a Book and Register, subscribed by Master *Andrew Ker* their Clerk, and by Master *David Lindsay* Moderatour, and Master *James Hamilton* Clerk to the said Committe, to declare much wisedome, diligence, vigilancie, and every way commendable zeal and fidelitie in doing and discharging every thing according to their Commission.

Sess. VIII. *August* 10. 1643.

Propositions given by the Commissioners of the Parliament of England to a Committee, to be presented by them to the Assembly.

WE the Commissioners appointed by both Houses of the Parliament of England, desire your Lordships, and the rest of this reverend Committee, to represent to the reverend the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, that we are commanded.

To acknowledge with all thankfulnesse to God, their zeal for purging and reforming Religion, and care not only to prevent the grouth, but utterly to extirpate the Reliques of Popery: And also the great blessing of Almighty God upon their so constant and faithfull endeavours, thus far establishing them in truth and peace, together with their labour of love, to procure the like happinesse to our Church and Nation.

To give them an account of their earnest desire and endeavour to see the same Work promoted and perfected among our selves; which though it hath been opposed and retarded by the industrious malice of the Popish, Prelaticall, and malignant partie, yet through Gods goodnesse it hath so far prevailed, as to produce the removeall of the High Commission, the making void the coercive power of the Prelates and their Courts, The ejection of the Bishops from the House of Peers, The turning out of many scandalous Ministers; Besides that they have passed and presented to his Majestie diverse Bills, *viz.* For the suppressing of Innovations, For the more strict observation of the Lords Day, Against Pluralities and non-residencie, For the punishment of the scandalous Clergie, For the abolition of Episcopacie, and the calling an Assembly: The true Copies of which, we herewithall deliver. Which Bills, through the under-mining of the Papists, Prelates, and their party (the constant enemies of Reformation) have not yet obtained his Majesties Royall assent. And yet considering the urgent necessity of purging and settling the Church (as hath been often pressed and presented to the Parliament of England, by pious and frequent exhortations and Declarations from that reverent Assembly) they have been constrained by an Ordinance of both Houses, to call an Assembly of Divines, and others, now sitting, to consider and prepare what may conduce thereunto; which by the assistance of some godly and learned Divines sent from this Nation (as is earnestly desired) we hope may through the blessing of God, bring it to perfection.

And yet notwithstanding to let them know that by reason of the prevailing of the Papists, Prelaticall Faction, and other malignant enemies to this so much desired Reformation, (all of them being now in arms against the Parliament) these hopefull beginnings are likely, not onely to be rendred ineffectuall, but all the former evils, superstitions, and corruptions (which for the present, through the blessing of God, are in a good measure removed) to be re-introduced by strong hand, which if once they should take root again in the Church and Kingdome of England, will quickly spread their venome and infection into the neighbour Church and Kingdome of Scotland; the quarrell of the enemies of this Work being not so much against the persons of men, as the power of Godlinesse, and purity of Gods worship, wheresoever it is professed. Both Houses do therefore desire that reverent Assembly to lay seriously to heart the state and condition of their sister Church and Kingdome, and not only by their prayers to assist in these straits, but also by such seasonable and effectuall means as to them shall seem meet, to further and expedite the present aid and assistance demanded by both Houses.

And lastly to make known unto them, that we are designed and sent by both Houses of Parliament, to the Generall Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to propound to them, and consult with them concerning such things as may conduce to our own Reformation, and our so much desired conjunction with this Church, which they have more fully expressed in a Declaration of their own, which herewithall we present.

August 10. 1643.

William Bond,
Secr. Commiss.

A Declaration of the Lords and Commons in the Parliament of England, to the Generall Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

THe Lords and Commons in Parliament acknowledging with humble thankfulnesse to Almighty God, the disposer of hearts, the Christian zeal and love which the Generall Assembly of the Churches of Scotland, have manifested in their pious endeavours for the preservation of the true reformed Protestant Religion, from the subtle practices and attempts of the Popish and Prelaticall party, to the necessary Reformation

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of Church discipline and Government in this Kingdome, and the more near union of both Churches, do earnestly desire that reverend Assembly to take notice, that the two Houses of Parliament fully concurring with them in these pious Intentions; for the better accomplishment thereof, have called an Assembly of diverse godly and learned Divines, and others of this Kingdome, unto the City of Westminster, who are now sitting and consulting about these matters. And likewise have nominated and appointed *John* Earle of Ruthland, Sir *William Armine* Baronet, Sir *Henry Vane* the younger, Knight, *Thomas Hatcher*, and *Henry Darley* Esquires, Committees and Commissioners of both Houses, to the Kingdome and States of Scotland, who beside their Instructions in matters concerning the Peace and Commonweal of both Kingdomes, have received Directions to resort to the Generall Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and propound and consult with them, or any Commissioners deputed by them, in all occasions which may further the so much desired Reformation in Ecclesiasticall matters in this Church and Kingdome, and a nearer conjunction betwixt both Churches. In performance whereof, Master *Stephen Marshall*, and Master *Philip Nye*, Ministers of Gods Word, and men of approved faithfulnesse and abilities in their Function, both Members of this Assembly of Divines here congregated, and sitting, are appointed to assist and advise the same Committee in such things as shall concerne this Church. And the two Houses do hereby recommend the Committees and Divines afore-mentioned, to the reverend Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to be by them received with favour, and credited in those things, which they, or any three, or more of them shall propound to them.

It is likewise desired, that that reverend Assembly will according to their former promise and resolution, send to the Assembly here, such number of godly and learned Divines, as in their wisedome they think most expedient for the furtherance of this work, which so much concernes the honour of God, the prosperity and peace of the two Churches of England and Scotland; and which must needs have a great influence in procuring a more safe and prosperous condition to other reformed Churches abroad. And that their endeavours may be more effectuall, the two Houses do make this request to them, with their authority, advice and exhortation, so far as belongs to them, to stir up that Nation to send some competent Forces in aid of this Parliament and Kingdome, against the many Armies of the Popish and Prelaticall party, and their adherents, now in arms for the ruine and destruction of the reformed Religion, and all the Professours thereof. In all which they shall do that which will be pleasing to God, whose cause it is, and likewise safe and advantageous to their own Church and Kingdome, who cannot securely enjoy the great blessings of Religion, peace, and Libertie in that Kingdome, if

this Church and Kingdome, by the prevailing violence of that partie, shall bee brought to ruine and destruction.

Jo. Browne Cleric. Parliamentorum.

Henr: Elsynge Cler. Parl. D. Com.

A Letter from some Brethren of the Ministerie in the Kirk of England, to the Assembly.

Reverend and beloved,

THe experience which we have had of your forwardnesse in receiving, and faithfulnesse in weighing our former addresses, hath given us abundant encouragement to take hold upon this present opportunitie of breathing out something of our sorrowes, which your love and our necessity, command us to represent to your consideration and compassion. Much we know we may commit to the wisedome and fidelity of our Brethren these messengers, to impart unto you concerning our miserable condition, and unto them shall leave the most. Your own Nationall, but specially Christian interest, will not permit you to hide your eyes from the bleeding condition of your poor distressed Brethren in England, should neither Letters, nor Messengers be sent unto you; But Messengers coming, we should at once neglect our selves, should we not thus a little ease our burdened hearts, by pouring them out into your bosomes, and seem ungratefull to you, of whose readinesse to suffer with us, and do for us, we have had so great and ample testimonies.

Surely if ever a poor Nation were upon the edge of a most desperate precipice, if ever a poor Church were ready to be swallowed up by Satan and his Instruments, we are that Nation, we are that Church. And in both respects by so much the more miserable, by how much, we expected not a Preservation onely, but an augmentation also, of happinesse in the one, and glory in the other. We looked for Peace, but no good came, and for a time of healing, and behold trouble! Our GOD who in his former Judgements was a moth and rottenesse (and yet had of late begun to send us health and cure) is now turned into a Lion to us: and threatens to rend the very cawle of our hearts: from above he hath sent a fire into our bones, and it prevails against us; from our own bowels he hath called forth, and strengthened an adversarie against us, a generation of brutish hellish men, the rod of his anger, and the staff of his indignation, under whose cruelties we bleed,

bleed, and if present mercy step not in, we die. *Righteous art thou, O LORD, and just are all thy Judgements!* But O the more then barbarous carriages of our enemies, where ever GOD gives any of his hidden ones up into their hands, we need not expresse it unto you, who knows the inveterate and deadly malice of the Antichristian faction against the members of our Lord Jesus. And it is well we need not expresse it unto you, for in truth we cannot. Your own thoughts may tell you better then any words of ours, what the mercie of Papists is, toward the Ministers and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ. But the Lord knows we are not troubled so much with their rage against us, or our own miseries and dangers; but that which breaks our hearts is, the danger we behold the Protestant Religion, and all the reformed Churches in at this time, through that too great and formidable strength the Popish faction is now arrived at. If our GOD will lay our bodies as the ground, and as the street under their foot, and poure out our bloud as dust before their fury, the wil of the Lord be done; might our bloud be a sacrifice to ransome the rest of the saints or Church of Christ from Antichristian fury, we would offer it up upon this service gladly. But we know their rage is insatiable, and wil not be quenched with our blouds, immortall, and will not die with us, armed against us not as men, but as Christians, but as Protestants, but as men desiring to reform our selves, and to draw our selves and others yet nearer unto God: And if God gave us up to be devoured by this rage, it will take the more strength and courage (at least) to attempt the like against all the Protestant and reformed Churches. In a deeper sense of this extream danger, threatning us and you, and all the Churches, then we can expresse, we have made this addresse unto you; in the bowels of our Lord Jesus Christ, humbly imploring your most fervent Prayers to the GOD that hears Prayers; who (should we judge by providences) seems to be angry with our Prayers (though we trust he doth but seem so, and though he kill us, yet will we trust in him:) Oh, give us the brotherly aide of your re-inforced tears and prayers, that the blessings of truth and peace which our prayers alone have not obtained, yours conjoyned, may. And give us reverend and much honoured in our Lord your advices, what remains for us further to doe, for the making of our own and the Kingdomes peace with GOD. We have lien in the dust before him; we have poured our hearts in humiliation to him, we have in sincerity, endeavoured to reform our selves, and no lesse sincerely desired, studied, laboured the publick Reformation; Nevertheless the Lord hath not yet turned himself from the fiercenesse of his anger. And be pleased to advise us further, what may be the happiest course for the uniting of the Protestant partie more firmly: that we may all serve GOD with one consent, and stand up against Antichrist as one man, that our GOD who now hides himself from

from his people may return unto us, delight in us, ſcatter and ſubdue his and our enemies, and cauſe his face to ſhine upon us. The Lord proſper you and preſerve us ſo, that the great work of theſe latter ages may be finiſhed to his honour, and our own and the Churches happineſſe through Chriſt Jeſus.

Subſcribed by very many hands.

Seſſ. IX. *Auguſt* 11. 1643.

Act againſt Burialls and hinging of Honours, &c. in Kirks.

THe Generall Aſſembly conſidering the great abuſe of burying within Kirks, wherein GODS publick worſhip is exerciſed, notwithſtanding diverſe Acts of this Kirk, prohibiting the ſame. And that through toleration thereof, other abuſes in hinging of Penſils and Brods, affixing of Honours and Arms, and ſuch like ſcandalous Monuments in the Kirk, hath crept in. Therefore for remedy hereof, do hereby ratifie and approve the former Acts and Conſtitutions made againſt burials in Kirks. And inhibites and diſcharges all perſons of whatſoever qualitie, to bury any deceaſed perſon within the body of the Kirk, where the people meet for hearing of the Word, and adminiſtration of the Sacraments. And als inhibites them to hing Penſils or Brods, to affixe Honours or Arms, or to make any ſuch like Monuments, to the honour or remembrance of any deceaſed perſon upon walls, or other places within the Kirk, where the publick worſhip of God is exerciſed, as ſaid is.

Seſſ. X. *Auguſt* 12. 1643.

Act anent repoſition of Miniſters, depoſed by Superiour Judicatories.

THe Generall Aſſembly conſidering that ſentences of Superiour Judicatories of the Kirk ſhould ſtand effectuall, while they be taken away by themſelves, and that they ſhould not be made void and ineffectuall by Inferiour Judicatories: Therefore diſcharges all Provinciall Aſſemblies to repone any Miniſter depoſed by the Generall Aſſembly. And all Presbyteries to repone any Miniſters depoſed either by

by Generall or Provincial Assemblies; And declares and ordains, that all such sentences of repositon by these Inferiour Judicatories *respectivè*, shall be null in themselves; And that the sentences of deposition by the Superiour Judicatories *respectivè* shall stand valid and effectuall notwithstanding thereof.

Sess. XI. *August* 14. 1643.

Act against Masters who have Servants that prophane the Lords day.

THe General Assembly declares, that the Acts made against Salmond fishing upon the Sabbath, or against any other labour upon the Lords day, to be not only against servants who actually work: But also that the samine should be extended against masters, whose hired servants they are.

Sess. XII. *August* 15. 1643.

Act for preparing the Directorie for the worship of God.

THe Assembly considering how convenient it is, that all the Ministers of the particular Kirks within this Kingdome, in their administration, keep unity and uniformity in the substance and right ordering of all the parts of the publick worship of God, and that all the particular Kirks by the same unity and uniformity, testifie their unanimous consent against all schisme and division, unto which these times, through the working of Satan and his instruments, against the propagation of the Gospel of peace are so inclineable: Doth ordain, that a Directorie for divine worship, with all convenient diligence be framed and made ready in all the parts thereof, against the next Generall Assembly, to be held in the year 1644. And for this end that such as shall be nominate by this Assembly, shall immediatly after the rising of the Assembly, set themselves apart (so far as may be) from their particular callings, and with all diligence and speed, go about this so publick, so pious, and so profitable a work. And when they have brought their endeavours and labours about this Directorie to an end, that it be put into the hands of the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly, to be revised, and thereafter by them sent in severall Copies to all the particular Synods to be held in April and May, that the samine being reported

reported with their consent, or with their observations, notes, and animadversions to the Generall Assembly, it may in end, after their full triall and approbation, by order and authority from them be received, and practised by all the Ministers and particular Kirks. And for preserving of peace and brotherly unity, in the mean while, till the Directorie by universall consent of the whole Kirk be framed, finished, and concluded, The Assembly forbiddeth under the pain of the censures of the Kirk, all disputation by word or writing, in private or publick, about different practices in such things, as have not been formerly determined by this Kirk, And all condemning one of another in such lawfull things as have been universally received, and by perpetuall custome practised by the most faithfull Ministers of the Gospell, and opposers of corruptions in this Kirk, since the first beginning of Reformation to these times. And doth exhort and command that all endeavour to keep the unity of the spirit, in the bond of peace, that all beginnings of Separation, all scandall and division, be by all means avoided; And that against envying, and strife, and faction, and glorying in men, every one go before another in the duties of love, and so fulfill the Law of Christ: That continuing in one spirit and one minde, and fighting together through the faith of the Gospell, we may mutually aide, strengthen and comfort one another in all Pastorall and Christian employments, better resist the common adversaries, edifie one another in the knowledge and fear of God, and the more acceptably, and with the greater blessing serve the Lord who hath done so great things for us.

Propositions from the English Commissioners presented this day to the Assembly.

WE the Commissioners appointed by both Houses of the Parliament of England, being commanded by them (as we have already declared) to desire the reverend Assembly of Scotland, seriously to lay to heart the present Estate of their Sister Church and Kingdome of England, and not onely to assist with their Prayers in their straits, but also by such reasonable and effectuall means as to themselves shall seem meet to further and expedite the assistance now desired by both Houses from the Kingdome of Scotland, and a more strict union with them, Have thought fit in Pursuance of the commands received from both Houses of Parliament, to communicate to this Assembly the paper which to this purpose we have lately delivered to the Honourable Convention of Estates, in this Kingdome, that so this reverend Assembly might be the better enabled, to contri-

contribute their best assistance toward the furthering and expediting of the same. Wherein we assure our selves of their ready and willing affections, considering the great service they may do to God, and the great honour may redound to themselves in becoming the Instruments of a glorious Reformation, not onely through this Iland, but from thence possibly to be spread to other Churches now oppressed under the Antichristian bondage, and tyrannie of the Popish and prelaticall Faction. We will not say there lies any obligation upon this Church and Kingdome, to comply with the desires of the two Houses of Parliament; though we might call to minde that God by the hand of the Church and Kingdome of England, did once reach forth assistance and aid unto this Nation, and hath since used them as a help to that blessed Reformation it now enjoyes. And who knoweth whether the wise providence of God hath not suffered this Church and Kingdome to be tempted thereby, to make them the more sensible of the present miseries of their brethren, and likewise given them a good issue, with the tentation; that they might be made a means of our deliverance? We shall not need to offer any grounds of prudence to invite them hereunto, who have already prevented us in the acknowledgement of what might be said of that kinde in the advice presented by the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly, July 6. 1643, unto the Convention of Estates, expressing as one remedie of the present dangers of this Church and Kingdome, their earnest desire of renewing the league and association with England, for the defence of Religion against the common enemie, and of further extending the same against Prelacie, and Popish Ceremonies, for Uniformity in externall worship and Church-government. And we hope that the same God who hath put these desires into the hearts of both Kingdomes, will make use of this present opportunity to knit them both to himself, and each other in a most strict and durable Union, and thereby the more firmly to establish truth and peace in both Nations. Howsoever this which we have done in discharge of our duty, will affoord the comfort of a good conscience in our greatest distresses, and give us ground to expect deliverance some way or other from the manifold wisedome and power of God, who though men and means fail, will not cast off his people, nor forsake his inheritance. We have onely this to adde further, that we are commanded by both Houses to let this reverend Assembly know that it is their earnest desire, that what other Propositions may be thought fit to be added and concluded by this Assembly, whereby the assistance and Union betwixt the two Nations, may be made more beneficiall and effectuall for the securing of Religion and Libertie, should be offered to us, and taken to our speedy consideration.

August 15. 1643. *William Bond.* Secr. Com.

The Paper before-mentioned, delivered August 12. to the Convention, and this day to the Assembly.

WE the Commissioners appointed by both Houses of the Parliament of England, are by our instructions commanded to put their brethren of Scotland in minde, that the Popish and prelaticall Faction that began with them, about the year 1638. and 1639. and then intended to make way to the ruine of the Kingdome of England by theirs, have not abated any part of their malice toward the Nation and Church of Scotland, nor are at all departed from their designe of corrupting and altering Religion through the whole Iland, though they have inverted the manner of their proceeding, conceiving now that they have an easier way to destroy them, if they may first prevail over the Parliament and Kingdome of England. In which respect it is the desire of both Houses, that the two Nations may be strictly united, for their mutuall defence against the Papists and prelaticall Faction, and their adherents in both Kingdomes, and not to lay down arms till those their implacable enemies shall be dis-armed, and subjected to the authority and justice of Parliament in both Kingdomes respectively. And as an effectuall mean hereunto, they desire their brethren of Scotland to raise a considerable force of Horse and Foot, for their aide and assistance, to be forthwith sent against the Papists, prelaticall Faction, and malignants now in arms in the Kingdome of England.

And for the better encouragement of the Kingdome of Scotland to this necessary and so much desired Union, we are by both Houses of Parliament authorized to assure their brethren, that if they shall be annoyed or endangered by any Force or Army, either from England or any other place, the Lords and Commons of England will assist them with a proportionable strength of Horse and Foot, to what their brethren shall now affoord them to be sent into Scotland for the defence of that Kingdome. And they will maintain a guard of Ships at their own charge upon the coast of Scotland for the securing of that Kingdome, from the invasion of Irish Rebells or other enemies, during such time as the Scotish Army shall be employed in the defence of the Kingdome of England. And to the end that nothing might be wanting in the Parliament and Kingdome of England to facilitate this work (wherein the true reformed Religion, not onely in these two Kingdomes, but throughout all Europe is so highly concern-

concerned; We are farther authorized to consider with their brethren the Estates and Kingdome of Scotland, of what other Articles or propositions are fit to be added and concluded, whereby this assistance and Union betwixt the two Nations, may be made more beneficiall and effectuall for the security of Religion and Libertie in both Kingdomes.

All which being taken into the serious and Christian consideration of the right honourable the Lords and others of the Convention of the Estates of Scotland, we hope there will not need many arguments to perswade and excite them to give their consent, and that with all convenient speed, to these desires of both houses of the Parliament of England; seeing now they have so fully declared, as by what they have done already, so by what they are yet desirous to do, that the true state of this cause and quarrell is Religion, in the Reformation whereof they are, and have been so forward and zealous, as that there is not any thing expressed unto them by their brethren of Scotland, in their former or latter Declarations, which they have not seriously taken to heart, and seriously endeavoured to effect, (notwithstanding the subtle malicious and industrious oppositions) that so the two Kingdomes might be brought into a near conjunction in one form of Church-government, one directorie of worship, one Catechisme, &c, and the foundation laid of the utter extirpation of Popery and prelacie out of both Kingdomes. The most ready and effectuall means whereunto, Is now conceived to be, that both Nations enter into a strict Union and league, according to the desires of the two Houses of Parliament.

And to induce the perswasion of this (If there were cause) we might observe, that, in the many Declarations made by the Generall Assembly or States of Scotland, to their Brethren of England, there have been sundry expressions, manifesting the great necessitie that both Kingdomes for the securitie of their Religion and Liberties, should joyn in this strict Union against the Papists, Prelats, and their adherents: As also in the endeavour of a near conjunction between the Churches of both Nations. The apprehension and foresight of which, hath caused the Popish and Prelaticall Faction in forreigne parts as well as in his Majesties Dominions, strictly and powerfully to combine themselves to the hinderance of this so necessary Work, and the universall suppression of the true protestant Religion in Europe: A course not much different from that which they took in the year 1585. when the wisedome and zeal of this Nation to counter-myne so wicked a conspiracie, and from the due sense of the mutuall interest of these two Kingdomes in Religion and Libertie, found a necessity of entring into a league of this nature, as well considering, that thereby no lesse safetie might be expected to both Nations, then danger by forbearing the same. And though we doubt not but in so necessary and so good a Work, many difficulties may arise to interrupt

and retard the same; yet we are as confident, that the heartie and brotherly affection of this Nation to the Parliament and Kingdome of England, will easily break through them; and the rather becauſe in the like caſes of difficultie and danger, not only at the time of the league above-mentioned, but before, and likewiſe ſince, when any opportunity hath offered it ſelf particularly, during the ſitting of this preſent Parliament, the Kingdome of England hath been very forward and ready to lay to heart the dangers of the Kingdome of Scotland as their own, and to decline no means within the reach of their power for the redreſſe or prevention of the ſame.

Auguſt 12. 1643.

William Bond Secr. Com.

Seſſ. XIII. *Auguſt* 16. 1643.

Recommendation to Presbyteries and Vniverſities anent Students that have the Iriſh language.

THe Aſſembly conſidering the lamentable condition of the people in the Highlands, where there are many that gets not the benefite of the Word, in reſpect there are very few Preachers that can ſpeak the Iriſh language; Do for remeid thereof think good, that young Students who have the Iriſh tongue, be trained up at Colledges in Letters, eſpecially in the ſtudies of Divinitie, And to this effect recommend to Presbyteries and Univerſities to preferre any hopefull Students that have the language aforeſaid, to Burſaries, that they by their ſtudies in proceſſe of time attaining to knowledge, and being enabled for the Miniſterie, may be ſent forth for preaching the Goſpel in theſe Highland parts, as occaſions ſhall require.

Sess. XIV. *August* 17. 1643.

The Letter from the Assembly of Divines in the Kingdome of England,

To the right reverend the Generall Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Right reverend and dearly beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ,

WE the Assembly of Divines and others, called and now sitting by authority of both Houses of Parliament, to be consulted by them in matters of Religion, have received from the honourable House of Commons, a speciall order (dated the 3. of this instant August) recommending it to us to write a Letter to the Generall Assembly of the Church of Scotland, taking notice of the pious and good expeditions to this Church and State, certified in the late Answer of the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland, from their meeting at Edinburgh the 17. of July 1643. And further to desire them to possesse the people of that Kingdome with our condition, and to encourage them to our assistance in this cause of Religion. And having with that order received and read the said Answer directed to the honourable Houses of the Parliament of England, we cannot sufficiently expresse great content and comfort, unto which it hath raised us in the midst of the sad and calamitous condition under which we lie.

It is no small refreshing to our mourning spirits to finde, that yet our God hath not left us wholly comfortlesse, nor cast us so far out of his sight, as having made us sick with smiting, that should be verified of us, *Lover and friend hast thou put far from us*, and that no man should turn aside to ask how we do: but that we finde so many of the Churches of Christ, and above them all, our deerest Brethren of Scotland, so far to take to heart our extremities, as to sit in the dust with us, and so to look upon our adversities, as being themselves also in the body.

And as we cannot render thanks sufficient unto our God for remembring such mercie in the midst of so much wrath; so we embrace with all chearfulnesse this opportunitie of thankfull acknowledgement of the great debt which your love doth continually lay upon, not us alone, but upon this whole Kingdome, in the free and full expressions of your care, piety and zeal, and of like affections of that whole Nation, to assist and concurre with the Parliament here, by all good and lawfull means, for settling of

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Religion in godly unity and uniformitie throughout all his Majesties Dominions, against all the designes, power and malice of bloudie Papists, and the Prelaticall Faction, with all their malignant adherents, the common enemies of Reformation, truth and peace.

We are likewise much ingadged to the great vigilancie and travels of the honourable Convention of the Estates of Scotland, in contributing their brotherly advice, and for their readinesse to give assistance for recovering and settling the peace of this Kingdome, against the devices, power and practices of the enemies of Religion, and the publick Good, whereof some hints are given in that Answer, and of which we doubt not but the honourable Houses of Parliament will be so sensible as to give such a return as becomes them: for they, better knowing then we do, the depth of the evils under which this Nation now groaneth, and the further dangers imminent, will be more able to value and improve the great affection and wisedome of their Brethren, in points of so high and generall concernement, for the safetie and glory of the Kings Majestie, and of all his Kingdomes, and are more fit to take notice of advices of that kinde, in reference to the civil State, which therefore we wholly leave with them.

But as for the many prudent, pious, and seasonable admonitions which concerne our Assembly, the good Lord reward (for we cannot) seven fold into your bosomes all the good, which you have laboured to procure unto the House of our GOD, and blessed be his Name who hath put such a thing as this into the hearts of our Parliament, to cleanse the House of the Lord of all the uncleanneſse that is in it, by impure Doctrine, Worship, or Discipline.

Nor can we in the depth of all our sufferings and sorrows, withhold our hearts from rejoycing in the wonderful goodnes of God toward this Kingdome, in that he hath let us see the gracious fruit of your effectuall prayers and teares, as well as of our own endeavours this way: In bringing together this Assembly, although in a very troublous time, whereby we may have better opportunity more fully to poure out our soules jointly and together to our God, for healing of this now miserable Church and Nation: To consider throughly, for what more especially the Land mourneth, and how we may be most usefull to our great GOD and Master Jesus Christ; In contributing somewhat to the vindicating of his precious truth, many wayes corrupted through the craft of men that have lyen in wait to deceive: In the seeking out of a right way of worshipping our GOD according to his own heart: In promoting the power of Godlinesse, in the hearts and lives of all his people, and in laying forth such a Discipline, as may be most agreeable to Gods holy Word, and most apt to procure and preserve the peace of this Church at home, and nearer agreement with the Church of Scotland (highly honoured by us) and other

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the best reformed Churches abroad, That so to the utmost of our power, we may exalt him that is the only Lord over the Church, his own House, in all his Offices, and present this Church as a chast virgin unto Christ.

It is a timely and savourie prayer which you have put up at the throne of Grace, touching the due managing of the proceedings in this Assembly, and that with straight intentions we may all seek the truth in everything, which by the blessing of God upon our labours, must needs produce all those blessings which your worthie Commissioners mention. And now, for your comfort as well as our own encouragement, we desire you to take notice of the gracious answer of the God that heareth prayer, unto your fervent cryes. For beside our own particular addresses and secret vows to our God to be faithfull (with disdain of all baits of avarice and ambition) it hath pleased the Divine Providence so to direct both the honourable Houses of Parliament, to take care of preventing all obliquitie in our proceedings, and to stop the mouthes of all that watch for their and our haltings, and are apt maliciously to traduce both, (as if we were so restrained by them, in our votes and resolutions, as to be bound up to the sense of others, and to carry on private designes in a servile way) that the Houses have tendered to us, and we have all most readily taken a solemne and serious Protestation in the presence of Almighty God, to maintain nothing in this Assembly touching Doctrine, but what we are perswaded in our consciences to be the truth; nor in matters of Discipline, but what we conceive to conduce most to the glory of God, and the good and peace of his Church; which doth not only secure the Members against fettering of their judgements or votes, but engage them to the use of all freedome, becoming the integrity of conscience, the weight of the Cause, the gravitie and honour of such an Assembly. It is likewise a great consolation, that our GOD hath put it into your hearts to designe some godly and learned Brethren to put in their sickles with us into this Harvest, which is so great, and requires so many Labourers; for which, as we heartily return thanks, so we earnestly pray the Lord to open a way to their timely coming hither, and do assure them of all testimonies of respect, love, and the right hand of fellowship, who shall under-take a journey so tedious, and now so perillous, to joyne with us in the Work, when it shall please the honourable Houses of Parliament to invite them thereunto.

It remaines that we should now spread before you our calamities, dangers and fears of further evils, not only drawing toward us, but even threatning you also; and crave your compassionate aids in all wayes becoming the servants of Jesus Christ. But your Commissioners have so fully declared your certain knowledge and deep sense of them, that they have left us no room for inlarging our selves in this particular, to Brethren so full of bowels

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and zeal. And they have sufficiently intimated unto the honorable Houses, that you are well aware how often the common enemies of both Kingdomes have consulted together with one consent to cut off both the one and the other from being a Nation, and that the tabernacles of *Edom*, and the *Ishmaelites* of *Moab*, and the *Hagarens*, *Geball*, *Ammon*, and *Amalek*, the cursed Papists, and their implacable and bloudy Abettors here, do still retain the same malice, and carry on the same designe against Religion, and perfect Reformation even in your Kingdome, happily rescued from their former tyrannies, as well as in this of scorched England, now in the furnace: Only they have varied the Scene, pouring out all their fury upon us at the present: That so, having once troden us under as mire in the streets, they may afterward more easily, (which God avert) set their proud and impure feet upon your necks also. Wherefore with the good leave and favour of the honourable Houses of Parliament, we shall now spare the further exciting of you to that which we doubt not of your forwardnesse by all lawfull and meet means, to promote with all your might; namely, the possessing the good people of that Kingdome, (of whose willing minde and readinesse you have already given ample testimony) touching our condition, and to encourage them to our assistance in this Cause of Religion.

And now remembring without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, with all due acknowledgments of the precious effects of your prayers; We most humbly and earnestly desire, that the same breathings of the spirit in you may still continue, and (if possible) more frequently and fervently ascend to your God, and our God, not only for removall of outward pressures, and the visitation of the sword, that hath already learned to eat much of our flesh, but also for the speciall assistance and protection of the Father of lights, in this great Work unto which we are now called, and wherein we already finde many and potent adversaries: that seeing the plummet is now in the hands of our *Zerubbabels*, all mountaines may become plains, and they may bring forth *the capstone of the Lords House with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it:* and that how weak and contemptible builders soever we be, the Lord would enable us to build with them, that none may have cause to despise the day of our small beginnings, nor to stop our progresse in the work which he hath given us to do. And as for us, who cannot but take notice of the extraordinary employments unto which you are called in your great Assembly, now also sitting: God forbid that we should sin against the Lord, in ceasing to pray for you, that the Lord may enable you to be wise master-builders, preserve your peace alwayes by all means, and make you stedfast, unmoveable, alwayes abounding in the work of the Lord, to the praise of the glory of his grace, and to the further benefit and comfort of the whole Church of God, but more especially of

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this our afflicted Ark, now wasted into the midst of a sea of miseries, and tossed with tempests, untill our wise and gracious God, by the furtherance of your prayers and brotherly endeavours, shall cause it to rest upon the mountains of *Ararat*, which may take away our fears, as well as put an end to our present sufferings, and give you to rejoyce with us, that now mourn for us.

Westminster,
Aug. 4. 1643.

Subscribed by your most loving brethren, highly prysing the graces of God in you, and that are your servants for Jesus sake, in the name of the whole Assembly.

William Tuisse, Prolocutor.
John White, Assessor.
Cornelius Burges, Assessor.
} of the Assembly.
Henry Roborough, *Adoniram Byfield* } Scribes

The Result of the Debates and Consultations of the Committees of the Convention of Estates and Generall Assembly, appointed to meet with the Commissioners of the Parliament of England.

August 17. 1643.

THe Committees of the Convention of Estates of Scotland, and of the Generall Assembly, being appointed to meet with the Commissioners of the two Houses of the Parliament of England, upon the Papers delivered in by the said Commissioners, unto the Convention of Estates, and unto the Generall Assembly, upon the 12. and 15, of this instant 1643.

Concerning the desires of both Houses, for a near and strict union to be entered into by the two Kingdomes. And it being declared at the said meeting, with what sensible affections the Generall Assembly and Convention, did receive the desires above-mentioned: And how beneficiall it would be for the more firme settlement of the said union, that a Covenant should be entred into by by both Nations: And this forme thereof being by all the foresaid persons taken into most serious debate and consideration, and agreed unto: It was thereupon resolved by them, that it should be presented to the Generall Assembly, to the Convention of Estates of Scotland, and to the two Houses of the Parliament of England, by their respective Committees and Commissioners, that it might with all speed receive their respective resolutions.

Fa. Primerose.

Subscribed *A. Ker.*

William Bond Sec. Com.

THe League and Covenant above-mentioned, being sent with the Commissioners of this Assembly, to the Parliament of England, and Assembly of Divines in that Kingdome; to be received and approven there, is to be printed at the return thereof.

Approba-

Approbation of the League and Covenant above-mentioned.

THe Assembly having recommended unto a Committee, appointed by them to joyne with the Committee of the Honourable Convention of Estates, and the Commissioners of the Honourable Houses of the Parliament of England, for bringing the Kingdomes to a more near conjunction and Union, received from the aforesaid Gommittees, the Covenant above-mentioned, as the result of their consultations: And having taken the same, as a matter of so publick concernment and of so deep importance doth require, unto their graveſt consideration, Did with all their hearts, and with the beginnings of the feelings of that joy which they did finde in so great measure upon the renovation of the Nationall Covenant of this Kirk and Kingdome, All with one voice approve and embrace the same, as the most powerfull meane, by the blessing of GOD, for settling and preserving the true Protestant Religion, with perfect Peace in his Majesties Dominions, and probagating the same to other Nations, and for establishing his Majesties throne to all ages and generations. And therefore with their best affections recommend the same to the Honourable Convention of Estates, that being examined and approved by them, it may be sent with all diligence to the Kingdome of England: that being received and approven there, the same may be with publick humiliation, and all Religious and answerable solemnitie, sworn and subscribed by all true Professours of the reformed Religion, and all his Majesties good Subjects in both Kingdomes.

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Sess. Ult. August 19. 1643.

The Assemblies humble desires to his Majestie anent the Lists for Presentations: With a Recommendation to Presbyteries.

THe Assembly considering the difficultie of obtaining six able and well qualified Persons to be put into a List to his Majestie, for every vaiking Kirk at his Majesties Presentation: Therefore do most earnestly recommend to his Majesties Commissioner, to represent their humble desires to his Majestie, that he would be pleased to accept of a List of three: As also conform to the desire of the last Assembly at S. Andrews, that his Majestie would be pleased to accept of any one qualified man, who shall be able to speak the Irish Language for Kirks vaiking in the Highlands: Which the Commissioners Grace promised to do with the first conveniencie.

And with all his Grace representing to the Assembly, that he conceived his Majestie had already done more, and yet would do more for satisfaction to the desires of this Kirk, anent Patronages, nor any other Patron: And therefore that it were convenient that all other Patrons were earnestly desired to follow his Majesties example; And the Assembly thinking it very necessary that some Generall course were set down for providing and planting of vaiking Kirks, whereby all occasions of contests and differences amongst Patrons, Presbyteries, & Paroches may be removed: Therefore the Assembly recommend to every Presbyterie, to consult and advise upon the best wayes and means for effectuating hereof, And to report the results of their consultations hereintill to the next Assembly.

Overtures

Overtures anent Witch-craft, and Charming, &c.

THe abundance and increase of the sin of Witch-craft, in all the sorts and degrees of it in this time of Reformation, is to be taken to heart by this reverend Assembly, who would to that end consider,

Of the occasions thereof, which are found to be these especially, extremity of grief, malice, passion, and desire of revenge, pinching povertie, solicitation of other Witches and Charmers; for in such cases the devil assails them, offers aide, and much prevails. I.

Of the reasons and causes of Satans prevailing, which are grosse ignorance, great infidelitie, want of the love of the truth (which GOD hath made so long and clearly to shine in our Land) and profaneness of life. II.

Of the means and wayes to bring them to a confession and censure, which we conceive to be, That a standing Commission for a certain time be had from the Lords of Secret Councel, or Justice Generall, to some understanding Gentlemen and Magistrates within the bounds of Presbyteries that shall crave it, giving them power to apprehend, try, and execute justice against such persons as are guilty of Witch-craft within these Presbyteries; For many Paroches want the concurrence of civill Magistrates. III.

Of the grounds of apprehending them, Which may be a reigning brute of Witch-craft, backed with dilations of confessing Witches, being confronted with them; for it is found that the dilations of two or three confessing Witches, hath ordinarily proved true: also depositions of honest persons, anent malefices committed, or cures used by them, may be a ground of apprehending them. IV.

Being apprehended, there would be honest and discreet persons appointed to watch them; for being left alone, they are in danger to be suborned and hardened by others, or of destroying themselves. V.

Ministers would be carefull at all times, especially Morning and Evening, to deal with them by Prayer and Conference, whiles they are in prison or restraint. VI.

The means to prevent the grouth of this wickednesse, are, VII.

That Ministers be every way carefull and painfull in warning people of the danger thereof, and of Satans temptations, both privately and publickly, and to instruct them in the knowledge of the Gospell, and grounds of Religion, by plain catechising, to urge lively faith in Christ, which faith Witches bestow otherwise; Also to presse holinesse of life, and fervent prayers in pri-

vate, and in Families, and in publick, that they be not led into temptation; And to use the censures of the Kirk against profane persons, such as Cursers, Whoores, Drunkards, and such like; for over such like he gets great advantage. Finally, it is requisite for preventing of this hainous sin, that people seek knowledge, studie to beleeve, walk in holinesse, and continue constant and instant in prayer.

And because Charming is a sort and degree of Witch-craft, and too ordinary in the Land; It would be injoyned to all Ministers to take particular notice of them, to search them out, and such as consult with them, and that the Elders carefully concurre in such search; And this Assembly would think on an uniforme way of censuring these Charmers, and such as employ them; or consult with them, *primo quoque tempore.*

The Assembly approves the Articles and Overtures aforesaid, And ordaines every Presbyterie to take to their further consideration by what other wayes or means, the sins aforesaid of Witch-craft, Charming, and consulting with Witches, or Charmers, & such like wickednes, may be tried, restrained, and condignely censured and punished ecclesiastically and civilly: And to report their judgements herein to the next Assembly.

Commission for Ministers to go to Ireland.

THe Generall Assembly having received a Petition subscribed by a very great number in the North of Ireland, intimating their deplorable condition through want of the Ministery of the Gospel, occasioned by the tyrannie of the Prelats, and the sword of the Rebels, and desiring some Ministers, especially such as had been chased from them by the persecution of the Prelats, and some others to be added, either to be sent presently over to reside among them, or declared transportable, that upon invitation from them, they might go and settle there: Together with a Letter from the Vicount of Airds to that same effect. All which the Assembly hath taken to their serious consideration, being most heartily willing to sympathize with every Member of Christ his body, although never so remote, much more with that plantation there, which for the most part was a branch of the Lord his Vine, planted in this Land. In which solicitude, as they would be loath to usurpe without their own bounds, or stretch themselves beyond their own measure, so they dare not be wanting to the inlargement of Christs Kingdome, where so loud a cry of so extreme necessity, could not but stir up the bowels of Christian

stian compassion. And although they conceive, that the present unsettled condition both of Church and State in that Land, will not suffer them (as yet) to loose any, to make any constant abode there; yet they have resolved to send over some for the present exigent, till the next Generall Assembly, by courses, to stay three moneth allanerly. And therefore do hereby authorize and give Commission to the persons following, to wit, Master *William Cockburne* Minister at Kirkmichell, and Master *Matthew Mackaill* Minister at Carmanoch, for the first three moneths, beginning upon the 8. of September next. Master *George Hutchison* Minister at Calmonell, and Master *Hugh Henderson* Minister at Dalry, for the next three moneths, beginning the 8. of December. Master *William Adair* Minister at Air, and Master *John Weir* Minister at Dalserfe, for the third three moneths, beginning the 8. of March, 1644. And Master *James Hamilton* Minister at Drumfreis, and Master *John Macclellane* Minister at Kirkubright for the last three moneths, beginning the 8. of June, the said year 1644. To repair unto the North of Ireland, and there to visit, instruct, comfort, & encourage the scattered flocks of Christ: To employ themselves to their uttermost with all faithfulnesse and singlenesse of heart in planting and watering, according to the direction of Jesus Christ, and according to the Doctrine and Discipline of this Kirk in all things. And if need be (with the concurrence of such of the Ministers as are there) to try and ordain such as shall be found qualified for the Ministery; Giving charge unto the persons foresaids in the sight of God, that in Doctrine, in Worship, in Discipline, and in their daily conversation, they study to approve themselves as the Ministers of Jesus Christ; And that they be countable to the Generall Assembly of this Kirk in all things. And in case of any of the above-mentioned Ministers be impeded by sicknes, or otherwayes necessarily detained from this service; The Assembly ordains the Commissioners residing at Edinburgh for the publick affairs of the Kirk, to nominate in their place well qualified men, who hereby are authorized to undertake the foresaid imployment, as if they had been expresly nominate in the face of the Assembly. And this although possibly it shall not fully satisfie the large expectation of their Brethren in Ireland: yet the Assembly is confident they will take in good part at this time that which is judged most convenient for the present condition, even a lent mite out of their own, not very great plentie to supply the present necessity: Requiring of them no other recompence, but that they in all chearfulnesse may embrace and make use of the Message of Salvation, and promising to inlarge their indebted bountie at the next Assembly, as they shall finde the Work of the Lord there to require. In the mean while wishing that these who are sent, may come with the full blessing of the Gospel of peace, recommends them, their labours, and these to whom they are sent, to the rich blessing of the great Sheepherd of the flock.

Act

Act against Ministers haunting with excommunicate persons.

IF any Minister haunt the company of an excommunicate person, contrair to the Lawes of this Kirk; The said Minister for the first fault shall be suspended from his Ministerie by his Presbyterie, during their pleasure: And for the second fault be deprived. And in case the Presbyteries be negligent herein, the Provinciall Assembly shall censure the Presbyterie thus negligent.

Act anent an order for using civill Execution against Excommunicate Persons.

THe Assembly taking to their consideration an Article, in the Heads and Propositions sent to the Assembly held at Edinburgh, in August, 1573. by the Lord Regents Grace, and allowed by that Assembly: Whereof the tenour followes. *It is resolved that the Executions of the sentence of Excommunication against Persons excommunicate, after the space of fourtie dayes past, shall be presented to the Lord Thesaurer, or his Clerk, who thereupon shall raise Letters by deliverance of the Lords of Session, to charge the Persons Excommunicate, to satisfie the Kirk, and obtain themselves absolved under the pain of Rebellion: And incase they passe to the Horne, to cause their Escheits be taken up, and also to raise and cause execute Letters of Caption against them; And these to be done at the Kings Majesties charges*: Do ratifie and approve the said Article. And farther that the intention of the said Article may be the better effectuate, doth also ordain, that every Presbyterie cause send to the Procurator, or Agent of the Kirk, the foresaid Execution, that is, an minute or note of the sentences of Excommunication within their bounds, bearing the time and cause thereof: And that under the hands of the Moderatour or Clerk of the Presbyterie, or of the Minister who pronounced the sentence; That the samine may be delivered to his Majesties Thesaurer, Advocate, or Agent. To cause Letters of Horning and Caption be raised and execute, and other diligence to be used against the Excommunicat Persons in manner foresaid. And that all other civill action and diligence may be used against them, warranted and provided by Acts of Parliament, or secret Councell made thereanent: And that particular account be craved hereof in every Generall Assembly.

TO

TO THE KINGS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTIE,

The humble Answer of the Nationall Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland.

ALthough the many and ample testimonies of Your Majesties Royall favour and bountie towards this Kirk and Kingdome be living and lasting Monuments to hold all Your Majesties good Subjects and us most of all, in remembrance of that duty, which we owe to Your Majesties our great Benefactour, never by any length of time to be deleted out of our minds: Yet when we remember even of conscience we owe honour and subjection unto Your Majestie as our dread Soveraigne, as well in Your Majesties absence as presence, We finde our obligation to be Religious, and thereby much increased: And therefore have we at this time in all our consultations and conclusions, of which some have been of more then ordinary weight and concernment, in answer to certain Propositions, made unto us by the Commissioners of the Houses of Parliament of Your Majesties Kingdome of England, and some Reverend Divines assisting them, fixed our eyes and thoughts upon Your Majesties honour and happinesse, with no other and with no lesse intention, then if we had been honoured by Your Majesties Royall Person in our Assembly. And in like manner have given such Instructions to some Ministers and others, to be sent unto the Assembly of Divines now in England, as next unto the honour of God, and the good of Religion, may most serve for Your Majesties preservation, and the peace of Your Kingdomes: Concerning which, the Commissioners of the last Generall Assembly have so fully expreſt their humble thoughts and desires in their Supplication and Remonstrance sent unto Your Majestie, that we need not adde any thing, and Your Majesties times and affairs forbid all repetition. We do onely in all humilitie beseech Your Majestie to judge of us and our proceedings, by the nature and necessity of our vocation, and the rules prescribed in the word of God for our direction, and not by uncertain rumours, and ungrounded reports of such men as have not the fear of God before their eyes. And do earnestly pray to God Almighty, in whose hands are the hearts of Kings, to incline Your Majesties heart to

the counsells of truth and peace, to direct Your Government for the good of your People, the punishment of male-factours, and praise of well-doers; that this fire of unnaturall and unchristian warre being extinguished, the People of God, Your Majesties good Subjects may lead a quiet and peaceable life, in all godlinesse and honestie.

The Answer of the Generall Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to the Declaration of the honourable Houses of the Parliament of England.

THe Generall Assembly of the Church of Scotland, having received a Declaration from the honourable Houses of the Parliament of England, by their Committees and Commissioners now residing here; Have thought good to make knowne unto the Lords and Commons in Parliament, that all the Members of this Assembly, and others well-affected here, do with most thankfull respects, take speciall notice of the expressions which they have been pleased to make in the afore-named Declaration, not only concerning their approbation of the desires and endeavours of the Generall Assembly of this Kirk, for the Reformation of the Church of England, and the union of both Churches in Religion and Church-government; but also concerning the resolution of both Houses, fully to concurre with them in these pious intentions. With the same thankfulnesse and due reverence, they acknowledge the high respects expressed towards them by both Houses, in directing unto them their Committees and Commissioners, assisted by two reverend Divines, and in desiring some of the godly and learned of this Kirk to be sent unto the Assembly sitting there.

The Assembly doth blesse the Lord, who hath not only inspired the Houses of Parliament with desires and resolutions of the Reformation of Religion, but hath advanced by severall steps and degrees that blessed Work; By which, as they shall most approve themselves to the Reformed Churches abroad, and to their Brethren of Scotland, so shall they most powerfully draw even from Heaven the blessings of prosperity and peace upon England. And as it is the earnest wish of their Brethren here, that the true state and ground of the present differences and controversies in England may be more and more cleared to be concerning Religion, and that both Houses may unceassantly prosecute that good Work first and above all other matters, giving no sleep to their eyes, nor slumber to their eye-lids, until they finde out a place for the Lord, an habitation for the mighty GOD of *Jacob*, whose favour

alone

alone can make their mountain strong, and whose presence in his own ordinances, shall be their glory in the midst of them: So it is our confidence, that the begun Reformation is of GOD, and not of man, that it shall increase, and not decrease; and that he to whom nothing is too hard, who can make mountaines, valleyes, crooked things, straight, and rough wayes, smooth, shall lead along and make perfect this most wonderfull Work, which shall be remembred to his glory in the Church throughout all generations.

And lest through any defect upon the Generall Assemblies part, the Work of Reformation (which hitherto to the great grief of all the Godly hath moved so slowly) should be any more retarded or interrupted, they have according to the renewed desires of both Houses of Parliament, and their own former promises, nominated and elected Mr *Alexander Henderson*, Mr. *Robert Douglas*, Mr *Samuel Rutherfoord*, Mr *Robert Baillie*, Mr *George Gillespie*, Ministers of Gods word; and *John* Earle of Cassills, *John* Lord Maitland, and Sir *Archbald Johnstoun* of Warristoun, ruling Elders, all of them men much approved here; With Commission and power to them, or any three of them, whereof two shall be Ministers, to repair unto the Assembly of Divines, and others of the Church of England, now sitting at Westminster, to propound, consult, treat, and conclude with them, and with any Committees deputed by the Houses of Parliament (if it shall seeme good to the honourable Houses in their wisedome to depute any for that end) in all such things as may conduce to the utter extirpation of Popery, Prelacie, Heresie, Schisme, Superstition and Idolatrie, And for the setling of the so much desired Union of this whole Island in one forme of Church-government, one Confession of Faith, one common Catechisme, and one Directorie for the Worship of GOD, according to the Instructions which they have received, or shall receive from the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly appointed to meet at Edinburgh from time to time, with the Assemblies power for that end. And as the Generall Assembly doth most gladly and affectionatly receive and fully trust the Committees and Divines sent hither, so do they hereby commend the afore-named Commissioners, not only to the like affection and trust of the Assembly there, but also to the favour and protection of both Houses of Parliament.

And for the further satisfaction and encouragement of their Brethren of England, the whole Assembly in their own name, and in name of all the particular Churches in this Kingdome, whom they represent; Do hereby declare, that from their zeal to the glory of GOD, and propagation of the Gospell, from their affection to the happinesse of their native King, and of the Kingdome of England, and from the sense of their own interest in the common dangers of Religion, Peace, and Libertie, They are most willing and ready to be united and associated with their Brethren

in a

in a nearer League and solemne Covenant for the maintenance of the truly reformed Protestant Religion, against Popery and Prelacie, and against all Popish and Prelaticall corruptions, in doctrine, discipline, worship, or Church-government; and for the settling and holding fast of unity and uniformity betwixt the Kirks of this Island, and with the best reformed Churches beyond sea. Which Union and Covenant, shall with Gods assistance be seconded by their cooperating with their Brethren in the use of the best and most effectuall meanes that may serve for so good ends; For the more speedy effectuating whereof, to the comfort and inlargement of their distressed Brethren (whose hope deferred might make their hearts to faint) the whole Assembly with great unanimity of judgement, and expressions of much affection, have approved (for their part) such a draught and forme of a mutuall League and Covenant betwixt the Kingdomes; as was the result of the joint debates and consultations of the Commissioners from both Houses, assisted by the two reverend Divines, and of the Committees deputed from the Convention of the Estates of this Kingdome, and from the Generall Assembly: Expecting and wishing the like approbation thereof by the right honourable the Lords and Commons in Parliament, and by the reverend Assembly there, That thereafter it may be solemnely sworne and subscribed in both Kingdomes, as the sureſt and straitest obligation to make both stand and fall together in that cause of Religion and Libertie.

As the Estates of this Kingdome have often professed in their former Declarations, the integritie of their Intentions against the common enemies of Religion and Libertie in both Kingdomes, and their great affection to their Brethren of England, by reason of so many and so near relations; So doubtlesse now in this time of need they will not fail to give reall proof of what before they professed. *A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversitie.* Neither shall the Assembly, or their Commissioners be wanting in exhorting all others to their duty, or in concurring so far as belongeth to their place and vocation, with the Estates now conveened, in any lawfull and possible course which may most conduce to the good of Religion and Reformation, the honour and happinesse of the Kings Majestie, the deliverance of their Brethren of England from their present calamitous condition, and to the perpetuating of a firme and happy peace betwixt the Kingdomes.

The Assemblies Answer to the right reverend the Assembly of Divines in the Church of England.

Right reverend and dearly beloved,

AS the sufferings of Christ abound in you, So our heartie desire to God is, that your consolations may much more abound by Christ. The perusing of your Letter, produced in every one of us such a mixture of affections, as were at the laying of the foundation of the second Temple, where there was heard both shouting for joy, and weeping aloud; We rejoyced that Christ our Lord had at last in that Land created a new thing, in calling together, not as of before a Prelaticall Convocation to be task-masters over the people of the Lord, but an Assembly of godly Divines, minding the things of the Lord, whose hearts are set to purge the defiled House of GOD in that Land: yet this our joy was not a little allayed by the consideration of the sad and deplorable condition of that Kingdome, where the high provocations of so many years, the hellish plots of so many enemies in a nick of time, have brought in an inundation of over-flowing calamities: We know you are patiently bearing the indignation of the Lord, because you have sinned against him, till he throughly plead your cause, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon, who now laugh among themselves, while you are fed with the bread of tears, and get tears to drink in great measure, being on the mountains like the doves of the valleyes, all of you mourning every one for his iniquitie.

It is now more nor evident to all the Kirks of Christ, with what implacable fury and hellish rage, the bloud-thirstie Papists, as *Babylon* without, and the Prelaticall Faction, the children of *Edom* within, having adjoyned to themselves many malignant adherents, of time-serving Atheists, haters of holinesse, rejecters of the yoke of Christ, (to whom the morning light of Reformation is as the shadow of death) have begun to swallow up the inheritance of the Lord, and are not easily satisfied in making deep and long furrowes on your backs. We cannot say that the loudnesse of your cry surpasseth the heavinesse of your stroake; but though *the Lord hath delivered the men, every one into his neighbours hand, and into the hand of his King, and they have smitten the Land*, yet *the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous*: This cloud shall speedily passe away, and a fair sun-shine shall appear.

As for us, though your extreame calamitie did not threaten the ruine of our Religion, Peace, and Liberties, as it doth most evidently; we would hate our selves, if we did not finde our hearts

within us melting with compassion over you: You are engraven on the tables of our hearts to live and die with you: we could desire that our heads were waters, and our eyes a fountain of tears, that we might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of the Lords people; So calamitous a condition of any of the Kirks of Christ, could not but be very grievous unto us; How much more shall not we stoup and fall down in the dust to embrace our deerest Brethren of England, to whom we are tied in so near and tender relations. When we were but creeping out of the deep darknesse and bondage of Popery, and were almost crushed with the fury of Forreigne Invaders, joyned with intestine enemies, pretending the name and warrand of authority, as now your oppressours do; Then did the Lord by your Fathers send us seasonable assistance against that intended and begun bondage both of soul and body: The repayment of which debt, the Divine Providence seemeth now to require at our hands. And whereas of late through our security we had fallen into a wofull relapse, and were compassed about with dreadfull dangers on all hands, while we aymed at the recovery of our former puritie and libertie: Then we wanted not the large supply of your fervent Prayers, and other brotherly assistance of that Nation, while those who are now your malignant enemies, would have swallowed us up.

These strait bonds of your ancient and late love, do so possesse our hearts, that when the motions of the Commissioners of the honourable Houses of Parliament, and your Letters did challenge our advice and aid for defence of Religion, and advancement of Reformation, our smoaking desires for a more strict Union and Uniformitie in Religion betwixt both the Nations, did break forth into a vehement flame, in such sort, as when the draught of a League and Covenant betwixt both Kingdomes for defence of Religion, &c. was read in open audience, It was so unanimously and heartily embraced, with such a torrent of most affectionate expressions, as none but eye or ear-witnesses can conceive; whereof the two reverend Divines sent from you to us, being then present, no doubt will give you an account. Neither was it so onely with us, but also the honourable Convention of Estates here, with the like harmony of affectionate expressions, did entertain the same; So that we hope to be reall and constant in prosecuting the contents of this Covenant. When we in our straits fled to the Lord, and entred in Covenant with him, he owned us and our Cause, rebuked and dissipated our enemies, and hitherto hath helped us, and blessed our enterprises with successe from heaven, notwithstanding our great weaknesse and unworthinesse. We trust in the Lord, that as once it was prophesied of *Israel* and *Judah*; So shall Scotland and England become one stick in the hand of the Lord, they shall ask the way to *Sion*, with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, let us joyne our selves to the Lord in a perpetuall Covenant, that shall not be forgotten; And so shall it come to

passe,

passe, that the Lords Jerusalem in this Island, shall be a cup of trembling, and a burthensome stone to all their enemies round about. Though now it be the time of *Jacobs* trouble, the Lord will deliver him out of it. Reverend and dear Brethren, we conceive your case, and of all the Faithfull in that Land, to be no other then of a woman crying, travelling in birth, and pained till she be delivered. The great red Dragon, (under whose standard the sons of *Belial* are fighting) is your Arch-enemy. This cannot but be a time of fear and sorrow; But when the male childe shall be brought forth, the pain shall cease, and the sorrow shall be forgotten. We are very confident in the Lord, that you wil be faithful to Jesus Christ, in the work committed to you by him in all his ordinances, and taking neither foundation, corner-stone, nor any part of the rubbish of Babell to build the City that is called, *The Lord is there*: But measuring all with the golden reed of the Sanctuary, you may more closely be united to the best Reformed Kirks, in Doctrine, Worship, and Government, that you may grow up in him in all things which is the head, even Christ.

And now Reverend and dear Brethren, though we know that you abound in all gifts and graces, the Spirit of Jesus Christ being plentifully powred out upon you, yet according to your desire and the motion made by the Commissioners of the Honourable Houses of Parliament, to testifie our hearty sympathie with you in the work of the Lord, We have nominate and elected some Godly and learned of this Church to repair to your Assembly. We doubt nothing of your hearty embracing them in the Lord, and their diligent concurrance with you in advancing that great work.

Not onely the common danger we are under, but the conscience of our duty to his suffering people, layeth bonds on us frequently to present you, and that blessed Work of Reformation, in your hands, to the throne of Grace, that the GOD of all Grace, who will call you into his eternall glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered a while may make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Edinburgh, August 19.
1643.

Subscribed in name of the Assembly of the Church of Scotland, by the Clerk of the Assembly.

The

The Assemblies Answer to the Reverend their beloved Brethren, Ministers in the Church of England.

Reverend and beloved,

WEe acknowledge with thankfulneſſe to GOD, that this is one of the good bleſſings beſtowed upon our Kirk of late, and a pleaſant fruit of our free Aſſemblies, That a way is opened for keeping communion with our ſiſter Kirks abroad, and correſpondence with you our dear Brethren, in whoſe joy and ſorrow we have ſo near intereſt, and whoſe cauſe and condition we deſire to lay to heart as our own.

All your former Letters were moſt acceptable, and full of refreſhment unto us, being taken as the earneſt of a more full and conſtant fellowſhip, longed after and hoped for: And this your laſt, although full of ſadneſſe and ſorrow, yet accounted of us all moſt worthy of our tendereſt affection and beſt reſpects, both for your cauſe who ſent it, and for theſe worthy witneſſes which did atteſt it: Wherein as you have given unto us no ſmall evidence, not only of your love, but alſo of truſt and friendly reſpect, by chooſing to poure out your grieved ſouls in our boſome; So we ſhall wiſh, and Godwilling endeavour, that you may really finde ſome meaſure of brotherly compaſſion in our receiving thereof. For theſe your ſad expreſſions of deep ſorrow, being as you have given us to conceive but a part of your complaint, and a lamentation leſſe then the cauſes doth require, cannot but melt every heart, wherein there is any the leaſt warmneſſe of the love of Chriſt and his Saints: And what Childe of the Bridegrooms chamber, can hear the voice of ſo many friends of the Bridegroom, lamenting for the evils which have befallen Chriſts Bride in England, in the very night before her expected eſpouſalls, and not ſit down and mourn with them, except his heart be fallen aſleep and frozen within him? This pitifull condition of our ſiſter Church in England hes matter enough we confeſſe to move, yea, to rend our bowels.

If we ſhould weigh this your heavie griefe in the ſcales of common reaſon, we behoved either to ſtand aloof from your plague as men aſtoniſhed, or ſink down in heavineſſe and be ſwallowed up of ſorrow: but when we ponder your ſad condition in the Ballance of the Sanctuary, we finde that nothing hath as yet befallen unto you, ſave that which hath been the exerciſe of the Saints in former times, who have been made to ſit down for a while in the ſhadow of death before the day of their deliverance. We finde nothing but that which may be a fit Preparation

tion for a comfortable out-gate from all your troubles. What if it was neceſſary in the wiſe diſpenſation of Almighty GOD, that a People in great eſtimation for wiſedome and power, ſuch as England, ſhould be thus farre humbled, as you declare, to the end that your deliverance may be ſeen hereafter to be of the Lord, and not of your ſelves? What if the Lord would not draw back his hand from the Wine-preſſe wherein you now lye, till he ſhould draw forth from you theſe pitifull expreſſions of your low eſtate, and ſo provide himſelf witneſſes againſt the day to come, that he may have the greater and purer glory in your ſalvation, and your gloriation may be in the Lord alone? Dear Brethren, comfort your ſelves in the Lord; this ſowing in tears, doth promiſe a reaping in joy, and who knoweth how ſoon he will give to you who are mourners in Zion, beauty for aſhes, the oyle of joy for mourning, the garment of praiſe for the ſpirit of heavineſſe; That you may be called the trees of righteouſneſſe, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

Though weeping be in the evening of this begun Reformation and purging of the Lords Houſe among you, yet in the morning when the diſcovered filthineſſe and ſweepings of the Temple ſhall be orderly caſt out, joy ſhall come with thankſgiving and praiſe. Though a fire be kindled in the Land, yet it is not to conſume any of the mettal, for the Lord is ſitting down as a Refiner amongſt you, and eſpecially to purifie the ſons of *Levi*, that he may have a more pure oblation of ſpirituall worſhip and ſervice in all his holy ordinances throughout all the Land, which is no token of wrath, but of loving kindneſſe towards you. No wonder that Satan doth thus rage, as you relate, fore-ſeeing his caſting out: No wonder he ſtirre up all the children of diſobedience, & kindle their naturall malice againſt the children of God with the inſpiration of helliſh fury: No wonder the ſpirit of Antichriſt be mad, when the morſell half ſwallowed down, is like to be pulled out of his throat, the fat morſell of the rich Revenues of England: No wonder he be cruell againſt you the ſervants of Chriſt, who are conſuming him by the breath of the Lords mouth.

You do well to expect no mercy, if Papiſts and Prelats prevail over you, neither deſire we to deceive our ſelves with hopes to be free from what ther power and malice can do againſt us; for they will not do to us if they get the upper-hand, as we have done, and muſt do, if God bring them low again under us, as they were before; for we and they are led by the contrary ſpirits of Chriſt, and Antichriſt: We have laboured, and muſt labour for their converſion, but they (except in ſo far as God ſhall bridle them) will not reſt without our deſtruction; for their fury againſt our perſons is much more fierie then our zeal is fervent againſt their abominations: Let them follow the ſpirit of lying and murthering, wee muſt take us to our refuge, and joyne our ſelves with all that are ſenſible of the danger of the reformed Religion in prayer and

supplication. *The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

Now for advice, what can we say to you who are upon your watch-tower, wherein is the spirit of wisedome and counsell; who lye thus as humble Disciples under the Lords foot, who did never forsake them that sought him. Go on in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, against all opposition, without fear of whatsoever dangers, to purge the House of the Lord, to repair the breaches thereof, to set up all his Ordinances in their full beautie and perfection, to the uttermost of your power, according to the pattern of the Word of GOD, and zeal of the best reformed Kirks; And let these two Kingdomes be knit together as one man in maintaining and promoving the truth of the Gospel; Let us enter in a perpetuall Covenant for our selves and our posterity, to endevour that all things may be done in the House of GOD according to his own will, and let the Lord do with us what seemeth good in his eyes. *Only wait upon the Lord, be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart.* Let your hands be ever at your Masters Work, and hold your faces resolutely to his Cause. *Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quite your selves like men, be strong, for ye shall see the salvation of the Lord*, and your labour shall not be in vain.

Subscribed in name of the Generall Assembly of the Church of Scotland, by the Clerk of the Assembly.

Commission of the Generall Assembly, for these that repair to the Kingdome of England.

THe Generall Assembly of the Church of Scotland, finding it necessary to send some Godly and learned of this Kirk to the Kingdome of England, to the effect under-written. Therefore gives full Power and Commission to Master *Alexander Henderson*, Master *Robert Douglas*, Master *Samuel Rutherfoord*, Master *Robert Baillie*, & Master *George Gillespie* Ministers, *John* Earle of Cassills, *John* Lord Maitland, and Sir *Archbald Johnstoun* of Warristoun Elders, or any three of them, whereof two shall be Ministers, to repair to the Kingdome of England, and there to deliver the Declaration sent unto the Parliament of England; and the Letter sent unto the Assembly of Divines now sitting in that Kingdome. And to propone, consult, treat and conclude with that Assembly or any Commissioners deputed by them, or any Committees or Commissioners deputed by the Houses of Parliament, in all matters which may further

further the Union of this Island in one forme of Kirk-government, one confession of Faith, one Catechisme, and one Directorie for the Worship of GOD, according to the Instructions which they have received from the Assembly, or shall receive from time to time hereafter from the Commissioners of the Assembly deputed for that effect. With power also to them to convey to his Majestie the humble Answer sent from this Assembly to his Majesties Letter, by such occasion as they shall think convenient, And suchlike to deliver the Assemblies Answer to the Letter sent from some wel-affected Brethren of the Ministery there. And generally authorizes them to do all things which may further the so much desired Union, and neareſt conjunction of the two Churches of Scotland and England, conform to their Instructions aforesaid.

Reference to the Commission, anent the Persons designed to repair to the Kingdome of England.

THe Assembly having this day approven the nomination made by the Commissioners of the late Assembly, of Persons to repair to the Synod of Divines in England: And having of new elected and nominated all the same Persons, except Master *Eleazar Borthwick*, who is now with GOD. Therefore gives power to the Commissioners to be appointed by this Assembly for the publick affairs of this Kirk, to nominate and appoint any other whom they shall think meet in his place. And suchlike the Assembly refers to the said Commission, to consider whether it be convenient to send now at this present time to the Kingdome of England, all the Persons appointed to go thither, and to designe the Persons whom they think meet to go at this present occasion, to determine the time of their dispatch, and to give unto them their Instructions. And further incase of sickneſſe or death of any of the Persons appointed for that employment, or in the case of any other necessary impediment of their undertaking the samine; Gives power to the said Commission, to nominate others in their place if the Commission shall finde it convenient.

Com-

Commission for the Publick affairs of this Kirk.

THe Generall Assembly, considering the laudable custome of this Kirk, in appointing Commissions betwixt Assemblies for the publick affairs of the Kirk, and the commendable practice of the late Assembly at Saint Andrews, in appointing their Commission for prosecuting that blessed Work, for uniting the Kirks of this Island in Religion and Kirk-government, by all lawfull and Ecclesiastick wayes, for continnance of our own peace at home, and of the common peace betwixt the two Nations, and for other good ends, as at length is expreſt in that Commission: And finding that the painfull endevours and proceedings of that Commission, unanimously approven in this Assembly, though they have much advanced that glorious Work of Unity in Religion and Government; yet hes not brought the samine to full perfection and a finall accomplishment: And the Assembly being now much animate and encouraged to prosecute that Work by the Parliament of England their Bills past against Episcopacie, and sundry other corruptions, and the good hopes of a solemne Covenant betwixt the Nations, And conceiving that in thir times of danger, there may be some occasions for conveening the Assembly, before the time indicted for their next meeting. Therefore the Assembly finding it necessary to appoint a new Commission, By these presents, nominates and appoints Mr *Andrew Ramsay*, Mr *Alexander Henderson*, Mr *Robert Douglas*, Mr *William Colvill*, Mr *William Bennet*, Mr *George Gillespie*, Mr *John Adamson*, Mr *John Sharpe*, Mr *James Sharpe*, Mr *William Dalgleish*, Mr *David Calderwood*, Mr *Andrew Blackhall*, Mr *James Fleeming*, Mr *Robert Ker*, Mr *John Macghie*, Mr *Oliver Colt*, Mr *Hugh Campbell*, Mr *Adam Penman*, Mr *Richard Dickson*, Mr *Andrew Stevinson*, Mr *John Lauder*, Mr *Robert Blair*, Mr *Samuel Rutherfoord*, Mr *Arthur Morton*, Mr *Robert Traill*, Mr *Frederick Carmichell*, Mr *Mungo Law*, Mr *John Smith*, Mr *Patrick Gillespie*, Mr *John Duncan*, Mr *John Hume*, Mr *Robert Knox*, Mr *William Fameson*, Mr *Robert Murray*, Mr *Henry Guthrie*, Mr *James Hamilton*, Mr *Bernard Sanderson*, Mr *John Leviston*, Mr *James Bonar*, Mr *Evan Cameron*, Mr *David Dickson*, Mr *Robert Bailzie*, Mr *James Cunninghame*, Mr *Geooge Young*, Mr *Andrew Auchinleck*, Mr *David Lindsay*, Mr *Andrew Cant*, Mr *John Oiswald*, Mr *William Douglas*, Mr *Murdoe Mackenzie*, Mr *Coline Mackenzie*, Mr *John Monroe*, Mr *Walter Stuart* Ministers: Marqueſſe of *Argyle*, Earle *Marshell*, Earle of *Sutherland*, Earle of *Eglintoun*, Earle of *Cassills*, Earle of *Dumfermling*, Earle

Earle of *Lawderdail*, Earle of *Lindsay*, Earle of *Queensberrie*, Earle of *Dalhousie*, Lord *Angus*, Vicount of *Dudhope*, Lord *Maitland*, Lord *Elcho*, Lord *Balmerinoch*, Lord *Cowper*, Sir *Patrick Hepburne* of Wauchtoun, Sir *Archbald Johnstoun* of Wariſtoun, Sir *David Hume* of Wedderburne, Sir *Alexander Areskine* of Dun, Sir *William Cockburne* of Langtoun, *Ruthven* of Frieland, Sir *James Arnot* of Fernie, Sir *Walter Riddell* of that Ilk, Sir *Lodovick Houstoun* of that Ilk, Sir *William Carmichaell* Fiar of that Ilk, Laird of *Bonjedburgh*, Laird of *Libbertoun*, Laird of *Brodie*, Sir *John Smith*, *James Denniſtoun*, Maſter *Robert Barclay*, *John Rutherfoord*, *William Glendinning*, *John Sempill*, *John Kennedie*, Maſter *Alexander Douglas*; To meet at Edinburgh the 21. day of Auguſt next, and upon any other day thereafter, and in any other place they ſhall think good. And gives and grants unto them, or any fifteen of them, there being twelve Miniſters preſent, full power and Commiſſion, to conſider and performe what they finde neceſſary by Praying and Preaching, by ſupplicating his Majeſtie and all the Judicatories of this Kingdome, by Declarations and Remonſtrances to the Parliament of England, to the Synod of Divines in that Kingdome, by Informations, Directions, Inſtructions to, and continuall correſpondence with the Commiſſioners, now deſigned by this Aſſembly to go to the Synod of Divines in England, or by any other lawfull Eccleſiaſtick wayes, for furtherance of this great Work, in the Union of this Iſland in Religion and Kirk-government, and for continuance of our own Peace at home, and of the common Peace betwixt the Nations, and keeping of good correſpondence betwixt the Kirks of this Iſland. With power alſo to them to concurre with the Lords of Councell, Commiſſioners of Peace, or with the Honourable Eſtates aſſembled in Convention or Parliament, or with their Committees and Commiſsioners, in proſecuting this good Work at home or abroad by all Eccleſiaſtick wayes. And ſuchlike with power to them to prevent the dangers conteined in the Remonſtrance, preſented unto the Convention of Eſtates by the Commiſsioners of the late Aſſembly in *June* laſt, & to proſecute the remedies of theſe dangers conteined in another Remonſtrance, preſented by the aids Commiſsioners to the Convention the 6. of *July* laſt; by admonitions, directions, cenſures, and all other Eccleſiaſtick wayes. And further in caſe their Brethren of England ſhall agree to the Covenant betwixt the Kingdomes, the draught and frame whereof is now ſo unanimouſly approven in this Aſſembly Gives alſo unto the Perſons foreſaid, or the *Quorum* above-written, full Power and Authoritie to command and enjoyn the ſamine to be ſubſcribed and ſworn by all the members of this Kirk: And that in ſuch order and manner, and with ſuch ſolemnities as they ſhall think convenient for ſo great and glorious a Work; And to ſend their directions to Seſsions, Presbyteries and Synods, for execution of their orders thereanent. And

with power to proceed againſt any Perſon whatſoever, that ſhall refuſe to ſubſcribe and ſwear the ſaid Covenant, with all the cenſures of the Kirk, or to refer the tryall and cenſures of ſuch delinquents to Presbyteries or Synods as they ſhall think convenient. And ſuch like gives unto the perſons foreſaids power and libertie, to call a Generall Aſſembly *pro re nata*, incaſe they ſhall finde the neceſsity of the Kirk, and this great Work to require the ſame: With full power alſo to them to give Anſwers in name of the Aſſembly, to all Letters ſent to the Aſſembly from the Kirks of Holland, Zealand, or any other forraigne Reformed Kirks. And further gives power to them to promove the other deſires, Overtures and recommendations of this, or of any former Aſſemblies to the Kings Majeſtie, Parliament or Convention of Eſtates, to the Lords of Councell, Seſsion, Exchequer, Commiſsioners of Parliaments, for plantation of Kirks, for the common burdens, and for conſerving the Peace. And ſuchlike gives as full power and Commiſsion to them to treat and decerne in any other matters referred, or to be referred to them by this Aſſembly, as if the ſamine were herein particularly inſert. And generally gives unto the Perſons foreſaids, or the *Quorum* abovementioned full power and Authoritie, to do and performe all things which may advance, accompliſh, and perfect the great Work of Unity of Religion, and Uniformity of Kirk-government in all his Majeſties Dominions, and which may be neceſſary for good order in all the publick affairs of this Kirk, untill the next Aſſembly, *ne quid detrimenti capiat Eccleſia*. With als ample power in all matters particulary or generally above-mentioned, as any other Commiſsion of Generall Aſſemblies, hes had or been in uſe of before; They being alwayes countable to, and cenſurable by the next Generall Aſſembly, for their proceedings thereintill.

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